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Truth's Principles:

O R.

Those Things about DOCTRINE and
WORSHIP, which are most surely be-
lieved and received amongst the People
of GOD, called

QUAKERS.

VIZ.

Concerning the Man CHRIST, his Suffer-
ings, Death, Resurrection, Faith in his Blood,
the imputation of his Righteousness, San-
ctification, *Justification*, &c.

Written, to stop the mouth of Clamour, and to inform
all who desire to know the Truth as it is in Jesus;

By the Servant of the Lord, John Creek.

Society
Friend

To which is added, Somewhat
Concerning the Difference between the Perswasions of
REASON, and the Perswasions of FAITH.

LONDON, Printed in the Year, 1662.

25 April 1812

Mr. T. C. D. Smith

Dear Sir, I have the pleasure to inform you that
the sum of £1000 will be paid to you on the 1st of May
next, by the Bank of England.

Yours very truly,

John Buller Esq.

London, April 25, 1812.

John Buller Esq.

London, April 25, 1812.



TRUTH'S PRINCIPLES:

O R,

*Those things about Doctrine and Worship, which are
most surely believed and received amongst the
People of God, called QUAKERS.*

Many are the Reports that are abroad concerning this People, not only as to their Practices and Deportments, but also as to their Doctrines and Beliefs. The former time having in a great measure resolved and worn out, as being the refuge of lyes for the ignorant and unrighteous to fly unto; but that stormy and wintry appearance is well nigh over and gone, because the Sun is so far risen, and the true Light so shineth, that most begin to see, that those reports were but lyes and scandals, raised as Fig-leaves to cover the nakedness of other Professions, that begun so manifestly to appear, through the Light that shined in these Peoples Lives and Conversations. But though the first be gone, yet the latter still sticks with many, as not knowing what they hold, as to Doctrine, some saying they deny the Scripture, and the Resurrection of the body, and all Ordinances, with the Man Christ, and his Death and Sufferings, and imputation of his Righteousness, and faith in his Blood, &c. Wherefore, for the satisfaction of all that would willingly be resolved, and know the Truth as it is in Jesus, we have written this short Account of their Faith and Beliefs, and if it were

possible to stop the mouth of clamorous tongues, before Sentence be given against them by some signal stroke of the Lord from Heaven, which he will undoubtedly in his appointed time reveal and make manifest, to the trembling of all hearts concerned therein, and tingling of all ears that shall hear thereof, when it shall be said to them, *The holy shall be holy still; and he that is filthy, let him be filthy still,*, Rev. 22. 11.

We believe, that the God of all Grace, hath given a measure of Grace, or some *manifestation of his Spirit* and Light thereof unto all men, according unto these Scriptures: John 1.9. Tit. 2.11. 1 Cor. 12.7. Nehem.9. 20. and experiences of all men, who (at some time or other do feel something in their *Hearts and Consciences*, that doth lust against the flesh, and the flesh against it, and that *these two are contrary, the one to the other*, one lusting after evil, which is evil; and the other after good, which is good; the one carnal, the other spiritual; the one from the Earth, the other from Heaven, Gal. 5.16, 17. *For they that are carnal, have an enmity with God, and cannot please him.*

We believe, By this Gift, Grace and Inspiration of the Almighty, man only can come to know the true God truly; What he is, and how he works in the Hearts and Consciences of People, to regenerate them and make them bear his Image, according unto 1 Cor. 1.19, 20, 21. Luke 10.21. and experiences of all that ever were regenerated and born again.

We believe, that all the Errors and mistakes about God, and the things relating to his Kingdom, sprang and arose from mens wandering from this Gift of God into their own *Imaginations*; whereby, though they thought

thought themselves wise, yet they became fools and erred, their foolish hearts being darkned, according to Rom. 1. not knowing the Scriptures nor the Power of God, as it is written, Mat. 22. 29.

We believe and know, that this Gift and Grace of God appears in and unto all men, that all may be without excuse, *accusing* for the evil, and *excusing* for the good, according to Rom. 2. 15, 16. shewing unto man *what is good*, and reproving of him in his own Conscience for the evil, whether thoughts, words or deeds; and that this reproof of Instruction is the way of Life, Prov. 6. 23.

We believe, that as the *true God* and *Eternal Life* is known only by the light of this *Gift and Grace*, according unto the *Scriptures*, from which Light and Spirit of God came the *Scriptures*, both of the *Old and New Testament*, as it is written, 2 Pet. 1. 21. so can they only be read, as truly to be believed, fulfilled and practised, in the Light and Power of the same; and all that are out of this Spirit, must needs be ignorant and unlearned in the Apostle's sense, *who wref the Scriptures to their own destruction*; as it is written: for Peter and John were *unlearned men* outwardly, *no knowing letters*, but inwardly read in the knowledge of this Light and Spirit of God, *and worried not the SCRIPTURES*, Acts 4. 13. 2 Pet. 3. 15.

We believe, according to the *Scriptures*, 2 Cor. 4. 3. that wheresoever the Power of God is not known within, there the *Gospel* is hid and unknown unto them that are lost, in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, *lest the Light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the Image of God, should shine unto them*, and

and God should heal them ; because it is only by the Light of Christ, *the Power of God*, that the Creature comes truly to see himself in his lost and undone estate ; from which fight ariseth the true fence in the heart of the Creature, that makes him cry out of his wretchedness by reason of the *body of sin and death*, which necessitates him to look out for a Saviour, whom God manifesteth in and by the same Light, *that shines in the heart*, on purpose to give the light of the knowledge of the Glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, *God's Image*, whereby God healeth the soul. And therefore doth the Devil, *the god of the world*, strive so much by the gifts of the pleasures, profits, vanities, and lusts that are in the world, which he presenteth to men and women now, as he did to Christ in the dayes of his flesh, when he shewed to him *all the world, with its glory* ; which glory is, *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life*, what-ever may make this life happy (as it were) in the things that may pride it, or lift it up *to sit as Queen*. And as men and women take and receive these gifts from the *god of this world*, their minds are blinded, because they believe not in the Light, which sheweth them the vanities of all the gifts of the *god of this world* ; which gifts the Devil knows (if they be received) will so blind the minds of them that receive them, that they will not come to be sensible in the true Light of their lost conditions, so as to cry unto God from the deep and true fence ; for then God, out of the depths of his Love and Mercy, could not but heal them : and therefore, lest the true Light should shine into them, to give them the sensible knowledge of themselves, and God should heal them, the Devil (as *god of the world*, by the things

things of the world.) endeavours to blind the mind (not the brain knowlege, but the hearty feeling sense within in the mind) lest the Light within should so shine, as God would heal them; and all the buslings of Satan with his gifts, are but to blind the mind within, lest God should heal the soul, that complains to him from the true sight and sense of his misery, as in himself.

By this Grace and Gift within, we believe, that to us (though in the world there be Lords many, and Gods many) there is but ONE GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, witnessed within man only by the Spirit of Truth, that manifests both the Father and the Son; and yet these three are one, and agree in one; and he that honours the Father, honours the Son that proceeds from him; and he that denies the Spirit, denies both the Father and the Son, and is Anti-Christ; but he that believes in the Spirit, and is led by it, is the Son of God, Rom. 8. 14. As many as are the Sons of God, are led by the Spirit of God.

We believe, the Scriptures bear witness unto, and testify of Christ: but they say the Witness of God is greater than them, the Spirit it self bearing witness with our spirits, that we are the Sons of God: for it is not the Scriptures without the Spirit, nor the Spirit contrary to the Scriptures, but the Spirit discovering the Will of God in the heart, or opening of the Scriptures in its own time and way, and not in or by the will of man, but as it self pleaseth (who searcheth all things, even the deep things of God, and manifests them unto the soul) which giveth the perfect sound and saving knowledge: for said Christ, the Spirit shall take of mine, and shew them

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them unto you. And as holy men gave forth the Scriptures, 2 Pet. 1. 21. so holy men, and they only, come truly to understand them, and not proud or ungodly men ; because their hearts and lives do not answer the hearts and lives of those that gave them forth, as face answereth face in a glas. And this we believe to be the reason, why so long preaching (by men of corrupt minds, who have and do handle the words deceitfully for selfish ends, and filthy lucre sake) hath brought forth so little fruit, and been to so little purpose, except to their purses and bellies : for bad they believed, and therefore spoken, and stood in God's counsel, they should have profited their bearers, Jer. 23. 21, 22, 23. to the end.

Through this Gift we believe, that Christ Jesus (the Son of God) was manifest in the flesh, in the fulness of time. And this we know by the same Spirit, by which our Fathers believed he should come : and Abraham saw his day : by the same do we believe he is come, and do see his day : as also by the Prophets and Apostles Writings, which two old cord is not easily broken.

We believe also, according to the Scriptures of truth, that this same Jesus bath God highly exalted, and given him a Name above every Name, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have Everlasting Life ; and that there is no other Name whereby man can be saved, than this Name of Jesus Christ : nor is Remission of Sins to be Preached by any other Name. But as we do not believe that the outward letters & syllables are that Name, that are to be bowed to by the outward knee, no more than the letters or syllables in the words, God, or Spirit, seeing the Scripture saith, Unto God, who is a Spirit, every knee shall bow, Isa. 45. 23. but that Name which saves

saver, & the Name of Jesus of God, that brings Salvation from Sin, and maketh every soul that names it, to depart from Iniquity. This is that Name which was preached, and which is preached through Faith, in which Name remission of sin is obtained. Therefore was the outward word Jesus given him, as his outward name; *Thou shalt call his name J E S U S, for he shall save his People from their Sins.* [Mark] for he shall save, &c. So that which saves, is the Name which is to be believed in, which is that Arm of God that brings Salvation, *when no eye pities, neither is there any to help;* the Power of God that then saves, is that Grace that comes from the fulness of Christ the Saviour. And without this virtue Christ and Jesus are but empty names, *as Cor. 12. 3. No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the holy Ghost.*

We believe also, that this Jesus died for, or because of Sin, and rose again for the Justification of those that believe in him, as well as to manifest to all the world, that he was the Son of God, and that he thereby spoiled Principalities and Powers, and triumphed over them openly, and led captivity captive in his own person; yet we believe and know, by his Grace in our hearts, that as his name Jesus, without virtue and Power is but an empty word, so his Dying, without man's Conformity to his Death, or being pleased into the likeness thereof, or being crucified with Christ (as saith the Scripture, Rom. 8. 3, 4, 5, 6, Gal. 3. 20.) will not profit men, as unto the salvation of his soul, no more than the naming of his outward name [Jesus] doth; it this day make people to depart from iniquity. For we believe, and are sure that man must dye inwardly, as well as Christ outwardly; and must be put to death in his flesh, as Christ was in his: For he that is in the flesh, cannot please God. Rom. 8. 8, neither cease from sin, like he that is dead, is freed from sin. Rom. 6. 7. And yet mans dying unto sin, and the root and principle of it in himself, is so far from making void Christ's Death in his own person, that it establisheth it to all those ends and purposes, for which it was intended of the Father. As the cure which the Physician doth, manifest and establish his skill and ability; so doth mans dying unto sin and self, and living unto God, manifest and establish the virtue and power of Christ's

Death : for as man manifests his being risen with Christ, by his seeking the things that are above, Col. 3, 2, so doth he manifest his knowledge of the Death of Christ, by his being crucified with Christ, and bearing about in his body the dyings of the Lord Jesus ; for as it is not an outward belief, gathered from the letter, that will change the heart and life (though the judgment and opinion it may) so is it not a belief from the history, or letter only, that can give man a saving knowledge of the Death of Christ ; but he must have the same glory and power of the Father in measure, working in him there, to beget Faith in his heart, that he may believe unto Salvation from his own filthiness and righteousness, as well as confess with his mouth, Rom. 10, and must have that Spirit in him quickening his mortal body, as well as to believe that it was in Christ, and raised up him from the dead, Rom. 8. 11. And this man, whoever he be, bond or free, that thus believes the Death of Christ, and its satisfaction to God, as well as its usefulness to man, cannot make it void, nor divide it and its virtue upon the soul that thus knows it, but will say, here is a dying man, witnessing the Death of Christ, and nevertheless the same man living with Christ, and concluding if Christ had not died, man must have perished in his sin, this being the way found out by God to recover him, whereby he knows Christ and him crucified, and what the preaching of the Cross of Christ is, which is foolishness to them that perish, but to them that are saved, the wisdom of God, and the power of God, 1 Cor. 1. 18.

By this Gift of God in our hearts, we further believe, That Christ Jesus rose again from the dead, according unto the Scriptures, and sits at God's right hand in a glorious body ; and we believe that our low estates and humbled bodies shall be made like unto his glorious Body, through the working of his mighty Power, whereby he is able to subdue all things unto himself ; and that this mortality shall put on immortality. For though we believe that Christ Jesus hath lighted every man with his Light, whereby man may come to know himself lost and undone, as before is said ; yet therefore is not every man saved, though the Grace that appears to all men is sufficient in it self ; but some have the Grace of God bestowed on them in vain, not liking so reign God

God in their knowledge, though something within them shewes them what is good ; but they reject the Counsel of God within, or against themselves, to their own destruction, Luk. 7. 30. (See the Margin) and yet it doth not follow that the Grace is insufficient of it self, no more than it follows that Christ's Death is insufficient, because he *rasted death for every man*, and yet every man is not saved. Neither doth Regeneration, or the believing in the *Light of Christ within*, make void the *Death and Sufferings* of Christ *without at Jerusalem*, no more than believing the Scripture-testimony without concerning Christ's Death, makes void the work of Regeneration and Mortification within ; but as the Apostle saith in another case, so say I in this, *For as the man is not without the woman, neither is the woman without the man in the Lord* ; even so is not the Death and Sufferings of Christ without at *Jerusalem*, to be made void and of none effect by any thing within, neither doth the Light within make that of none effect without, but both in the Lord answers his will ; for though there is and may be a knowledge and belief of what Christ did and suffered without the Gates, in his own body, upon the Tree, and yet sin alive in the heart, and the work of Regeneration not known ; yet it cannot be so where the Light within is believed on, and obeyed so as to have its perfect work in the heart, to regenerate and make all things new, and to be of God ; this man can never make void what Christ hath done and suffered without. And yet this new birth, or Christ formed within and dwelling in the heart by Faith, doth not limit or confine Christ to be only within, and not without also, but both within and without, according to the good pleasure of the Father to reveal, and make him known ; for he fills all things, and the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain him, and yet is he at God's right hand far above all Heavens in a glorious body.

And we also believe the *Resurrection of the Just and Unjust*, the one to *Salvation*, and the other to *Condemnation*, according unto the *Judgment of the great Day* ; and then shall every Seed have its own body, according to Cor. 15. 36, 37, 38. which we verily believe : for if the dead arise not, we are of all men most miserable. But because we dare not be so foolishly inquisitive, as to say,

With what bodies shall they arise? therefore do some say, we deny both the Resurrection of the Body of Christ, and of all that are or shall be dead: But this also is false; for every man shall be raised in his own order; but Christ the first fruits, 1 Cor. 15: 23. And we believe, they shall be raised with the same bodies, so far as a natural and spiritual, corruptible and incorruptible, terrestrial and celestial can be the same.

We further believe, according unto the Scriptures, concerning Faith, that that *Faith* is only true, which is *God's gift*, and hath *Christ Jesus* the Power of God for its author and object, and is distinguished from the dead Faith by its fruits: for though in description and definition they may carry a resemblance, yet in nature are as different as a living man is from a dead, which wants not form or shape, but life and power. So saith the Apostle *James*, *As the body without a spirit is dead, so is Faith without Works*; even so is that Faith which stands in the wisdom of words, and not in the Power of God: by the one, man is kept in captivity to the world and the things of it, but by the other he hath victory over the world, 1 Joh. 5: 4. and the *Soul* and *Wise* thereof in his own heart, whereby it is purified, and God is seen; for *the pure in heart see God*, Mat. 5: 8. This Faith differs men now, and their Worships, as it did *Cain* and *Abel*; for, by *Faith Abel offered a more excellent Sacrifice than Cain*, Heb. 11: 4. By thine living Faith, *Abel* saw beyond the Sacrifice unto *Christ* the first-born of *God*, beyond the *fusiling* of the flock, which he offered, and therefore *God had respect unto Abel and his Offering*; but *God rejected Cain and his Offering*, though he had *Faith* to believe it to be his duty, yet striking in the Form, and not flying on the wing of Faith unto *Christ* the *One Offering*, he missed the mark, as all have done ever since that have gone in *Cain's way* of worshipping, as well as killing men about Worship. But we believe that Faith to be only true and living, that flies over self-righteousness, as well as sinning, unto the Fountain of Life in *Christ*; which Faith hath nothing of man in it, but is *as the bread of Life* by which the *Soul* lives; not a bare assent to the truth of a proposition in the natural understanding, but the *Soul's* cleaving unto *God*, out of a naturalness between *Christ* and the *Soul*; and so lives rather by re-
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tion, than bare credit or desperate adventure and hazard; not looking at its doing to commend it, but God's love and bounty in Christ the Light, to receive it; and yet Holiness is its delight, and he can no more live out of it, than the fish upon the dry land.

We believe that this *Faith* keeps the mind pure and the heart clean, through the sprinkling of the heart, from an evil conscience, by the *Blood of Jesus*, which remits the Sin and justifies the Soul, through the virtue of this Blood received into the heart by this living Faith, which receives all its power and virtue from Christ, in whom it abides as its root and object, whereby *Justification* is witnessed from *Sin*, not in *Sin*, Rom. 6. 23. *But now being made free from Sin, and become servants unto God, you have your fruits unto Holiness, and the end Everlasting Life.*

We believe that *Justification* and *Sanctification* are distinguished, but not divided: for as he that sanctifieth and justifieth is one, so do these go together; and when the Soul hath the greatest sense of *Justification* upon it, through the virtue of the *Blood of Jesus* by the living *Faith*, then is it most in love with Holiness, and at the greatest distance from Sin and Evil; and whenever there is a failing in *Sanctification*, there is also some eclipse of *Justification* in the eye of the Soul, until *Faith* hath recovered its strength again, which it lost by *Sin's* prevailing. For, as the furthest and clearest sight is in the brightest day; so is it with the Soul, when it is moston the brightness and beauty of Holiness, its *Justification* appears most glorious, and its Union and Communion most sweet and lasting; and so, like two twins, as they are much of an age, so they are like one to the other; and *what God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.*

We also by this Light believe, that acceptance with the Father is only in Christ; and by his Righteousness made ours, or imputed unto us: not by the creaturely skill, but by the applicatory act of God's gift of Grace, whereby the soul feels the difference between self-applying by its own *Faith*, and God applying by his Spirit, and so making Christ onto the Soul, *Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption*: So that we believe and are sure, that there is a great difference between

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Impurification, as it is the act of man's spirit, and as it is the act of free Grace, without man's forcing. And so we distinguish between Imagination and Impurification, between reckoning or imputing that is real, and reckoning or imputation that is not real, but a fiction and imagination in the creaturely will and power. And because we are against the latter, we are clamoured upon, as if we denied the Impurification of Christ's Righteousness; when it is only unto these, that are not made righteous by it, *to walk as he also walked*: For, as the Scripture saith, Is it not he that faith he is righteous by the imputation of Christ's Righteousness, but *he that doth Righteousness is righteous, as Christ is righteous*, & Job. 3. 7. he that believeth otherwise is deceived. And yet it is not Acts of Righteousness, as done by us, nor as inherent in us, as acts, by which we are accepted of God, and justified before him; but by Christ the Author and Worker of those acts in us and for us; whereby we know that we are in him, and he in us, and we hold him as our Head, into whom all things are gathered together in one, even in him.

We further believe, that God is only to be worshipped, and not any likeness that man makes unto himself of God, from any view, sight or knowledge that he hath had of him; but in every act and service, man is to know what substantially, as well as whom speculatively or notionally he worshippeth, as it is written, Joh. 4. 24. *Ie. man may know not what he know what we worship; for the honour is to me alone*. And he that thus worshippeth the Father, honoureth the Son by the same Spirit, which is one with the Father and the Son; in which Spirit only God is worshipped, according to the form of its own choosing and manifesting of itself in actions, according unto the good pleasure of the Father, who is Spirit, and limiteth man unto the Spirit's form, but allows not man to limit the Spirit unto his form, though it be not of his inventing originally, but of the Father; yet man must no more limit God unto it, than he could command God to appear in it at first: For as he chose it himself, so he hath reserved liberty to leave it at his pleasure, *who works all things after the counsel of his own Will, which he hath purposed in himself*, that the gift of the knowledge of the Mystery of his Will, might forever be acknowledged to be of his Grace, and from

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from the Riches of the Glory thereof, according to *Ezekiel. 5.* and man be bound, but God free ; man bound to wait in the Light for God's Movings, but God free to move in whom, to what, and when he pleaseth : then man is to go when he faith go, and come when he faith come ; and such Servants do serve him ; and then there is no more curse, as in the dayes of *wil-worship and voluntary humility*, but the Throne of God and of the Lamb, *Col. 2. 18, 23. Rev. 22. 3, 4.* and they shall see his Face, and his Name shall be on their foreheads.

We believe also, that this Worship is spiritual (and not carnal) in all its Parts and Ordinances, and not to be imposed by any outward force, but performed by the inward leadings of God's Spirit, according as the holy men of God were led and guided in the dayes past, who gave forth the Scriptures ; all impositions of Worship outward, being only enjoyed under the first Covenant, that made nothing perfect, *until the time of Reformation*, spoken of, *Heb. 9. 10.* But Christ being come, there is an end as well of such Impostures, as of the *Meats and Drinks, and divers Baptisms and carnal Ordinances*, these being all but temporary, and in order unto an end, but all to wail to Christ, the sum and substance of all, [the first] pointed at by all, and [the last] ending of all, *the Jews*. And he that thus worships God in Christ, his Ordinances are spiritual and not carnal, and his Faith carries him beyond his Works, with righteous Abel, and preserves him that he is not drowned in the form, like Cain ; neither falls he short of the Glory of God, nor of his assurance of Acceptance with him.

We believe there is one Baptism necessary unto Salvation, *Ephes. 4. 5. One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism*. And this Baptism is Spiritual, of which John's Water was but a figure, *Job. 3. 31.* That he should be made manifeste Israel, therefore am I come, baptizing with Water, saith John : and *1 Pet. 3. 21.* The like figure wherunto, even Baptism, doth also now save us ; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good Conscience towards God, by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This one spiritual Baptism into the Name of Jesus Christ, is that which saves ; the Water being but a figure, that Christ might be manifest to Israel, who had divers Baptisms imposed on them, until

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manded now by the same Spirit that commanded the Believers
to be Baptized in the days past, either for the furtherance of the
Gospel, or tryal of their Faith, we judge them not. But this obe-
dience is very rare to be found, and we could heartily desire,
that all would consider seriously, whether Literal sayings ob-
served onely by outward reading, hearing by the ear, or inward
impulses upon the heart by the Divine power, are the motives
unto obediences in this kind. And if honesty and uprightness of
heart may be heard, we believe and know, the many dead souls
every where, notwithstanding their Baptisms, will be as so many
witnesses against them, by their groveling under the law, as
so many slain and killed men by the Law, while the same's
quickenings have not been known in the true Baptism into death.
For we find by daily experiences, that most men and women live
like Pharaoh's children, onely to eat up the fat, and to envy those
that are not so lean-soul'd as themselves.

We believe also, that as there is one true saving Baptism, so
is there one Bread or Body of Christ, which all the Saints do
feed upon; and though they be many as to persons, yet their
Bread is but one, and they all in it are one bread. And this we
believe is the flesh that came down from heaven, John. 6. 53. Though the outward Jews now, as then, murmur at him
because he said, I am the Bread which cometh down from heaven,
ver. 41, 42. But Christ, (ver. 45.) to stop their murmur-
ing, told them, that the knowledge of this mystery was only re-
vealed unto them whom God (and not man) teacheth; and no
more than are caught of God, can set seal and subscribe unto this
truth in Jesus: though we believe also, that Jesus did take out-
ward Bread and brake it, and gave it to the Disciples, as the
Seriapite said; and this was a figure of his Body (that was to be
pierced and broken upon the Tree) and a shew, to shew forth his
death until he came. And we believe he did arise again, and ap-
pear unto his Disciples; And all that believed were together and
had all things common, &c. And they continuing daily with one ac-
cord in the Temple, breaking bread from house to house, did eat their
meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having
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avour with all the People; Act. 20:29, 35, 40, 41, 46, 47. And we believe that the Apostle in his Cor. xii. doth faith true, where he saith, *When ye come together therefore in one place, this is not to eat the Lord's Supper.* And all that he speaks in that Chapter, is not to perpetuate that outward breaking of Bread, otherwise than as the Believers did, that were filled with the Holy Ghost in singleness of Heart, as before is said; and yet we judge not those who break outward Bread and drink outward Wine, being commanded so to do; and put in remembrance thereby of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, by the remembrancer, the spirit of truth, which is appointed by the Father to lead into all truth. But to do it by imitation, or tradition only, (as most do it, if not all at this day) we know it is nor an offering unto God in righteousness, neither do we believe this to be the communion of the body and blood of Christ; and yet, the eating of the flesh, and drinking of the blood of Christ, we believe man must know and witness, or he hath no life in him, Job. 6:5-7, 54, 55. And we believe that many are living now in their Spirits as the Jews did, vers. 52, saying, *how can this man give us his flesh to eat?* And not only the Jews but many of his disciples said, *This is an hard saying, who can bear it?* vers. 60. and at vers. 63. he tells them, *It is the Spirit that quickens, the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life;* and he that hears and understands these words, that are Spirit and Life, will not be offended at what I have spoken of the flesh and blood of Christ.

By the same Spirit and Grace we believe, that Prayer is an Ordinance of God when performed by his Spirit, in all words (and not those which man's wisdom teacheth) or without words, by sighs and groans which cannot be uttered, and these so often as the spirit it self pleaseth. But the Form without the Spirit, whether it be by words of other mens framing, or words of a man's own spirit, according to his will, time and manner, this is not the Prayer that prevails with God. And we believe there is none so weak and infirm, but this Spirit proffers its help at some time or other, though man regardeth it not. And the more man's mind is gathered within from all visibles, the more he comes to be sensible of the movings and stirrings of this Spirit,

Spiritu in his secret cryes to God, answerable to the wants of that man or woman, in whom it moves and cryes. And by due watching thereupon, we believe and know, the Spirit of prayer and of adoption, that *spiritus natus* God, comes to be discerned and distinguished from a man's own spirit and will.

We believe by the same gift of Grace, that there are several Ministrievings, and several Operations, according to 1 Cor. 12, and all by the same Spirit, as before the Law; and after the Law, by Moses, and after by John the Baptist, and Christ, and his Apostles; and in all these, the Ministration had acceptance with God through the management of the Spirit, and its rejection and dislike of God for the want thereof. And by this Spirit were the Scriptures given forth, and did the holy men of God Speak, Prophesy, Preach and Pray as they were moved; and for want of it, the Letter did, and doth kill. And for the further appearance and pouring out of this Spirit, answerable unto the work and service that God had for them to do, they were to wait, as Christ commanded his Disciples to do at Jerusalem, to receive the Promise of the Father: For, by this Spirit he that speaks, speaks *as the Oracle of God*. And therefore, as it was the practice of the People of God in old time, to wait for the moving and stirring of this Spirit, that they might speak, *as it gave them utterance*, in the evidence and demonstration thereof; so do this People (called Quakers) now; and according to its moving in their hearts, they minister, according to the signification of the Spirit, whereby they understand, both what and when to speak, and when to be silent; as also, who they are that minister and speak in their own wills, *abrogating* the *Grace of Christ*, which the Apostle was careful always to be in subjection to, lest he should make it void, by speaking the *words which man's wisdom teacheth*; and therefore as the Saints did, so we do believe, and therefore we speak: and such Breaching and Speaking in faith, as well as Praying in faith, is acceptable unto God as his Worship, and not otherwise.

And we further believe by the same spirit, That the sum of all Religion, according to truth, and the signification of the word [Religion] is, *Man not at liberty in his will, but bound again unto God by his having given to him, by the light of Christ within him, the true sight and knowledge of himself as in himself, as lost and undone*.

for ever, and from this fight a truce sence to artespon and remain with him; from whence spring unutterable groans and crys unto God, under the weight of the burden and wretchedness, by reason of the body of sin and death ; and then when there was none to help or pitty in this state, then is Mercy shewed in Christ the Arm of God, which is revealed as an help, neither seen, nor known, where, how or when to come at it, or meet with it : And this begets in the heart of that man and woman, in, and unto whom it is thus revealed, thanks and praises unto God, for this gift and revelation of his Son, in this needful time, whom the soul sees to be the gift of eternal Love.

And we believe and know, upon this love and faithfulness of God, is founded, built and established the everlasting Covenant (whereby not onely all men may be saved, for its ability, but some shall be saved because of its prevalency) which is not like to the Covenant which he made with our Fathers. And although all mankind is not saved, yet it is not because either of insufficiency in this Covenant, or because of the weakness of the grace that appears in and unto all men; but because of man's will, loving death and choosing his own delusions, whereby his destruction is of himself, and God clear of his blood in the free tender of his grace, gift and striving of his Spirit within him. For we know assuredly, according to the Scriptures of Truth, and experience of all souls that ever were truly converted to God, that though by Grace man is saved, not of himself, but by the free gift, yet as the old world did, and those rebellious Jews spoken of Acts 7 . who, as did their Fathers, so did they, alwayes resist the holy Ghost, so do men now. And yet in the tender of this grace and striving of his Spirit, the Lord is a God so hiding himself in the management of this striving and ministratiōn of his spirit, as if it wholly depended upon man's choice and consenting, that man's will, as to him, is (as it were) free in rejecting or accepting, Life and death being set before him; whereby in the wisdom of God, the propensity of his Nature, as it came out of the bands of his Maker, hath an advantage by this dealing of God, to put forth it self; so that man is as free in the choice, as he is in the refusal of the tender of mercy and help, and that with an equal indifference, as it appears to him in this state; notwithstanding

standing afterwards, in the further growth in this grace, and knowledge of Christ, he sees clearly and convincingly, that the Grace (that wrought suddenly from his sight and knowledge in the first working, tender, and ministration of God towards him) gaifted his consent through its own prevalency in the Love of God; by which sight and sence self comes to be abhorred, and the free Love so admired, that he knows from first to last, all was of Grace, and that free; that self is not able to challenge any thing as due from what it had done, but all of gift; and yet as before, with such an equal indifference on man's account; so that God may and will appear to be just, both in condemning and saving, and the Justifier freely of all that believe in Jesus, the Light of the World.

Therefore, let all take heed, how they dislike this Ministration of God, and striving of his Spirit in their hearts and consciences, under colour and pretence of its insufficiency, and therfore they will not come to him, because his drawings and strivings are not so strong as they would have them to be; looking for such an overpowering and irresistiblness, as they are not able to withstand and gainsay; lest such perish through a wilful neglect, & for want of stretching out their hand, when the Lord holds out his; and so they perish in the ditch, with a vain expectation of further power or cry in their mouths, *Lord have mercy on us:* and so with the sluggard, while they cry, yet a little more slumber and folding of the hands to sleep, their Garden is overgrown with weeds, and their backs clothed with rags, and they beg in harvest; whilst others that have sown in tears, not fainting, do in due time reap in joy, and not despising the crumbs that fell from the table, nor the day of small things, witness the presence of their Beloved, come down into his Garden, and walking among the Lillies.

Let these things be truly considered, pondred and weighed in the true ballance of Light and Righteousnes, lest any soul perish through the false weight and measure; so shall my soul rejoice that any have escaped the Net of the Fowler, through the discovery of the true Light, and God have all the glory, unto whom alone it belongs, and man ashamed, confounded, his mouth stopped, and he laid in the dust for ever; and then shall my end be answered in writing these things.

T H E E N D .

Concerning Perswasions in Matters of Religion.

THERE is the Natural man and the Spiritual man, and there are the Perswasions of each in and about matters of Religion. There is the Perswasion of *Reason*, and the Perswasion of *Faith*.

The Perswasion of *Reason* is that belief which man receives into his mind or heart from the exercise of the Reasoning Faculty : and this Perswasion in Matters of Religion is but Man's Opinion or Judgement, which how certain or infallible soever it appear to him, yet may be shaken by a demonstration or evidence of an higher kind and nature.

The Perswasion of *Faith* is that Belief, which the New-Creature receives into the renewed mind, from the Evidence and Demonstration of the Spirit, which openeth and manifesteth the things of the Spirit, unto that mind which is begotten and renewed by it. And this Perswasion is certain and infallible, however it may be struck at and battered, by the reasonings of the wise earthly part, even in that very man, whose heart is thus perswaded, by the Light of the Spirit of God, concerning the things of God's Kingdom.

Now the lowest Perswasion of *Faith* is higher and of a more noble nature than the highest Perswasion of *Reason* : because *Faith* is of an higher Principle, and of a deeper nature and ground, than Man's *Reason* is. But this (because it appears not in Man's sphear, but rather out of it, and is contrary to the line and reach of his wisdom) is accounted by him *foolishness and madness*.

Thus

Thus is the Wisdom of God (and the Children thereof) judged and condemned by Man in his day.

And how can it be otherwise ? How can the wisdom of Man but judge that as foolishness, whose beauty and excellency is hid from its eye ? But this is, because the wisdom of Man is out of its place, not subjected to the Wisdom of God, but exalted above it ; therefore (as a curse unto it) is it suffered to lift up it self in its conceitednes against, and so to persecute the pure Wisdom of God and the births thereof, that it might fall, and be broken, and snared, and taken, and its day deservedly come to an end, and be shut up in the shadows and chambers of eternal darkness.

But what ear of Man can hear this ! Surely none that is whole in the line of Man's wisdom, reason and understanding ; but that alone which is bruised, broken and in some measure dashed to pieces, by the iroads of a diviner Life and Nature. This, in the leadings of that Life which hath broken it, and in the shinings of the Light Eternal upon it and into it, may be enabled to take up the Cross to the natural part, and to die that Death with Christ, which preserves from the second Death, with the misery thereof.

Happy is he, who knows and hearkens to the Perswasions of God's Spirit, who is born of God, and taught to wait upon him and worship him in Spirit, who receives his Religion from the Light of Faith, into the renewed Nature and Mind, and not from the Reason of Man into the natural understanding, which is easily corrupted and cannot be kept pure, but alone by the indwelling of the Principle of Eternal Life in it.

For though such may suffer very deeply in this world, from

from the men of this world (as the Subjects and Servants to the Principle of Life have done in all Ages and Generations) yet their Principle will bear them out, in which God will appear to strengthen and refresh their spirits, and carry them up above all their Sufferings in the Patience, Meekness, and Faith of the Lamb. And keeping to their Principle, they cannot be overcome, but must either live or die Conquerors, according to the Will and good Pleasure of Him who ordereth and disposeth of all things well, and bringeth good out of every evil, in despight of all the powers of darkness. And he that overcometh (whether by life or death) in the Lamb's Spirit, shall wear the Lamb's Crown, and sit down in that perfect Rest in the Kingdom of the Father, which will give the hearts of all his Children full Satisfaction. In which assured hope (Life stirring in our bosoms, and quickning our hearts with Love unto our God, and Zeal for his Truth) we can freely give up all that is near and dear unto us in this world, and lay down our heads in inward Peace, in the midst of the greatest outward Persecution and Trouble. *Even so, O Lord, thy Will be done concerning this Generation of thy People; whom thou hast begotten to thy self, and brought forth by thy mighty Power, to testify to thy Truth in this present day. Dispose of them as it pleaseth Thee, and let not their Faith in Thee, nor thy Faithfulness to Them fail, but let them be a Praise to thy Name throughout all Generations, and tendered by Thee as the First-fruits of thine Appearance, in the glorious Light of the everlasting Day, after this great, long, thick and dark night of Apostacy from the Life and Spirit of the Apostles, which hath so long eclipsed and covered the brightness of thy Beauty from the sight of the Earth.*

Isaac Penington.